



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2026

Members: Richard Craig, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger, Rose Belanger
Don McDowell ABSENT

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Bob Heanue, Brad Limoge, Tom Snipp
Travis Knapp ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Scott Johnstone, Village General Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Tyler Machia, Zoning/Planning Administrator; Kevin Petrochko, Lister

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jim Grover, Brent Labree, Kent Hedberg, Jerry Throne, Charles McArthur, Pauline McArthur, Wallace Reeve, Kathy Chaffee, Josh Goldstein*

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM -CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Richard Craig called the Town of Morristown Selectboard Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

Carl Fortune called the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morrisville Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.

This joint Public Hearing was called to receive the public's comments on the proposed comprehensive amendments to the Morristown/Morrisville Zoning and Subdivisions Bylaws.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

5:40PM - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. 2026 Zoning/Subdivision Bylaw Amendments — Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4441, 4442, and 4444, the Morristown Selectboard and the Village of Morrisville Trustees will receive public comment on proposed comprehensive amendments to the Morristown/Morrisville Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws.**

Richard Craig opened the hearing and explained the process. Both the Selectboard and Village Trustees have reviewed the proposed 2026 Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws. He noted that both bodies would hear public comment and could make minor amendments as appropriate.

Tyler Machia, Zoning and Planning Administrator, stated that following review by both boards, he made minor, non-substantive edits to the final draft, primarily for grammar and clarity.

Section 435

Discussion began on proposed changes to Section 435, focusing on demolition versus repair of existing structures and when permits are required. The Boards considered whether property owners should be required to document maintenance work. Tyler explained that the goal was to balance flexibility for property owners with accountability.

Board members raised concerns about potential retroactive enforcement and the risk of overburdening homeowners with unnecessary documentation or notifications, particularly to the Listers' Office for minor work. Kevin Petrochko, speaking on behalf of the Listers/Assessors Office, clarified that the intent is to capture changes that may affect property value. Further discussion clarified the distinction between minor repairs and substantial demolition or reconstruction. Tyler emphasized that the primary concern is significant work that could impact property values without proper documentation.

The Boards agreed to the following amendments to Section 435:

- **Change the section title from "Maintenance" to "Demolition and Maintenance."**
- **Move Section C to become Part 3 of Section A.**
- **Replace "should" with "shall" regarding documentation requirements.**
- **Replace "if requested" with "upon request."**
- **Remove the second sentence in Section 435(B), beginning with "Storm water drainage" and ending with "notifications of their enlargement."**

Stormwater drainage provisions were also discussed. The Boards considered limiting notification requirements to work involving existing permitted infrastructure rather than all drainage activities. Jerry Thorne raised concerns about how "stormwater drainage areas" may be interpreted in engineering contexts.

Camper and RV Storage

The Boards reviewed proposed changes related to camper and RV storage. Current bylaws require campers to be parked in driveways; the proposed amendment would allow alternative storage locations with a \$15 permit. Tyler explained that enforcement is complaint-driven, and that permits would apply to RVs, campers, and certain containers stored outside designated driveways. Discussion included permit duration, fees, and enforcement procedures. Several residents spoke and expressed opposition to regulating where campers may be stored on private property. The Boards agreed to maintain a complaint-based enforcement approach, relying on the Zoning Administrator's discretion while balancing property owner flexibility with neighborhood standards.

The Selectboard and Trustees agreed to accept the 2026 Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws with the minor amendments outlined above. Joshua Goldstein, Planning Commission Chair, thanked both bodies for recognizing the Planning Commission's three years of work on the bylaws.

Motion by Leah Hollenberger to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Bob Heanue to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Brad Limoge. Motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Leah Hollenberger to adopt the 2026 Zoning Bylaws with the minor amendments to Section 435 as stated. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (4–0).
Motion by Bob Heanue to adopt the 2026 Zoning Bylaws with the minor amendments to Section 435 as stated. Motion seconded by Tom Snipp. Motion carried (4–0).

Future Discussion: Data Centers

Members of both bodies briefly discussed potential future regulation of data centers and their environmental and community impacts. Leah Hollenberger suggested the use of Interim Zoning Bylaws under 24 V.S.A. § 4415, which allows municipalities to adopt temporary regulations following public notice and hearing to protect public health, safety, and welfare while studying or updating bylaws. She suggested using Royalton’s definition of high-impact uses as a model. Tyler Machia raised concerns about feasibility, enforcement capacity, and the need for a more deliberate process.

The Selectboard agreed to place this topic on the July 6 or July 20 agenda for further discussion.

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried. (4/0)

Motion made by Bob Heanue to adjourn the Village Trustees Meeting. Motion seconded by Tom Snipp. Motion carried (4/0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm
Submitted and filed this 6/30/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.